

Amendments to the Claims:

Please add claims 37-39. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A recombinant or chemically synthesized peptide compound, ~~characterized in that it comprises a sequence of at least 8 consecutive amino acids of the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1~~ comprising SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof, wherein the fragment comprises SEQ ID NO: 2 or a peptide encoded by nucleotides 763 to 855 of Figure 4, and wherein the peptide in that it causes a specific T response.

2. (Currently amended) A The peptide compound as claimed in of claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising a sequence which has at least 80% identity with the sequence SPRWWPTCL SEQ ID NO: 2.

3. (Currently amended) A The peptide compound as claimed in of claim 1, characterized in that it comprises at least one element other than natural amino acids.

4. (Currently amended) A method for identifying peptide compounds comprising a sequence which has at least 80% identity with a sequence of approximately 9 to 10 consecutive amino acids ~~of the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1~~ SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the peptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2 or a peptide encoded by nucleotides 763 to 855 of Figure 4, ~~characterized in that it comprises the following steps comprising:~~

a) determining a peptide fragment ~~fragments which possess comprising~~ a sequence of approximately 9 to 10 amino acids comprising an anchoring motif for a given HLA molecule,

b) determining the immunogenicity of the peptide ~~fragment fragments~~ obtained in step a), ~~preferably~~ by carrying out an Elispot assay, and

c) identifying the peptide fragment, wherein the peptide fragment is reactive in the Elispot assay, wherein the peptide fragment comprises a sequence which has at least 80% identity with a sequence of approximately 9 to 10 consecutive amino acids SEQ ID NO: 1,

and wherein the peptide fragment comprises SEQ ID NO: 2 or a peptide encoded by nucleotides 763 to 855 of Figure 4.

5. (Original) A peptide compound which can be obtained using a method as claimed in claim 4.

6. (Withdrawn) A method for revealing artificial point modifications or mutations which are capable of increasing the immunogenicity of the peptide compounds as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

a) Determining fragments which possess a sequence of approximately 9 to 10 amino acids comprising an anchoring motif for a given HLA molecule,

b) introducing an additional point modification (for example a post-translational modification) or mutation at residues 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8,

c) determining the immunogenicity of the peptide fragments obtained in step b), preferably by carrying out an Elispot assay.

7. (Currently amended) A recombinant or chemically synthesized peptide compound ~~which can be obtained using a method as claimed in claim 6 by~~

a) determining a peptide fragment which possesses a sequence of approximately 9 to 10 amino acids comprising an anchoring motif for a given HLA molecule, wherein the peptide fragment comprises SEQ ID NO: 2 or a peptide encoded by nucleotides 763 to 855,

b) introducing a point modification or mutation at residue 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8,

c) determining the immunogenicity of the peptide fragment obtained in step b), by carrying out an Elispot assay,

~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the fragment comprises a sequence of approximately 9 to 10 amino acids ~~of the sequence SEQ ID No. 1~~ SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the peptide fragment ~~which~~ has at least one mutation ~~of or~~ one modification with respect to the sequence ~~SEQ ID No. NO: 1, and wherein in that it~~ the peptide fragment causes a specific T response.

8. (Currently amended) ~~A The peptide compound as claimed in~~ of claim 7, characterized in that it is derived from the sequence SPRWWPTCL (SEQ ID No. 2) wherein the peptide is encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of nucleotides 763 to 855, nucleotides 763 to 902, nucleotides 763 to 952, nucleotides 763 to 1033, nucleotides 763 to 1286, nucleotides 763 to 1645, and nucleotides 763 to 2009 of the cDNA of Figure 4.

9. (Withdrawn) A DNA fragment encoding at least one peptide fragment of claim 1.

10. (Withdrawn) A DNA fragment as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that it comprises a sequence which has at least 50% identity with a sequence of at least 24 consecutive nucleotides of the sequence SEQ ID No. 3.

11. (Withdrawn) A vector for expressing a peptide fragment, characterized in that said fragment comprises a sequence of at least 8 consecutive amino acids of the sequence SEQ ID No. 1, containing a DNA fragment of claim 10 fused to a promoter which is effective in eukaryotic cells and/or in prokaryotic cells, in particular in human cells.

12. (Withdrawn) An expression vector as claimed in claim 11, also comprising one or more selection marker(s) and, optionally, one or more sequence(s) encoding factors which activate immune defenses, such as cytokines and/or lymphokines.

13. (Withdrawn) A vector as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that it is a viral vector, a plasmid or a pseudovector.

14. (Withdrawn) A dendritic cell loaded with peptide compounds as claimed in claim 1.

15. (Withdrawn) A dendritic cell transformed with the expression vector as claimed in claim 11.

16. (Withdrawn) A dendritic cell as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that it forms part of the macrophages.

17. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a peptide compound or a mixture of peptide compounds as claimed in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

18. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an expression vector as claimed in claim 11 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

19. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising in particular a DNA fragment as claimed in claim 9 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

20. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the cells as claimed in claim 14 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

21. (Currently amended) A The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in of claim 17, ~~characterized in that it also comprises~~ further comprising one or more immunological adjuvants, in particular agents which are cytotoxic for tumors.

22. (Currently amended) A The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in of claim 17, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising a pharmaceutical vehicle which is compatible with IV, subcutaneous, oral or nasal administration.

23. (Currently amended) A The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in of claim 17, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising a pharmaceutical vehicle selected from positively or negatively charged liposomes, nanoparticles or lipid emulsions.

24. (Withdrawn) Use of a peptide compound as claimed in claim 1 for manufacturing a medicinal product.

25. (Withdrawn) Use of a peptide compound as claimed in claim 1 for manufacturing a medicinal product intended for treating cancer.

26. (Withdrawn) Use of a peptide compound as claimed in claim 1 for manufacturing a medicinal product intended for immunization ex vivo, which consists in particular in inducing tumor-specific CTLs in vitro, expanding them and reinjecting them, said induction possibly being carried out with the aid of loaded dendritic cells.

27. (Withdrawn) Use of a peptide compound as claimed in claim 1 for manufacturing a medicinal product intended for immunization in vivo.

28. (Withdrawn) Use of a peptide compound as claimed in claim 1 for manufacturing a medicinal product intended for the treatment of cancer, in particular solid tumors, especially carcinomas, melanomas, neuroblastomas, preferably hepatocarcinomas and adenocarcinomas of the colon or of the kidney.

29. (Withdrawn) Use of a peptide compound as claimed in claim 1 for increasing, in culture medium, the CTL population of tumors and/or inducing the secretion by said CTLs of cytotoxic factors such as, for example, IL-2, IFN γ and TNF.

30. (Withdrawn) Use of a peptide compound as claimed in claim 1 for manufacturing a medicinal product intended for stimulating immune defenses, in particular to increase the CTL population of tumors and/or to induce the secretion by said CTLs of cytotoxic factors such as, for example, IL-2, IFN- γ and TNF.

31. (Withdrawn) A method for producing an antibody which recognizes a peptide compound as claimed in claim 1, comprising the steps consisting in:

- a) immunizing a mammal with said peptide compound,
- b) isolating a monoclonal antibody which binds to said peptide in an immunological assay.

32. (Withdrawn) A monoclonal antibody which can be obtained using the method as claimed in claim 31.

33. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting a peptide or polypeptide encoded by the ORF+1 of iCE, comprising the steps consisting in:

- a) bringing a sample removed from an individual in contact with a monoclonal antibody as claimed in claim 32,
- b) allowing the formation of the peptide of polypeptide/antibody complex,

c) detecting said peptide or polypeptide by means of a detectable label which is in the complex or which binds to the complex.

34. (Withdrawn) A diagnostic kit comprising in particular an antibody as claimed in claim 32 for detecting cancer.

35 (Withdrawn) A diagnostic kit comprising in particular an antibody as claimed in claim 32 for the prognostic of existing cancer in an individual

36. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising in particular a monoclonal antibody as claimed in claim 32 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

37. (New) The peptide of claim 1, wherein the peptide is encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of nucleotides 763 to 855, nucleotides 763 to 902, nucleotides 763 to 952, nucleotides 763 to 1033, nucleotides 763 to 1286, nucleotides 763 to 1645, and nucleotides 763 to 2009 of the cDNA of Figure 4.

38. (New) A method of inducing a T-specific immune response comprising administering to a subject in need thereof the peptide compound of claim 1.

39. (New) The peptide of claim 7, wherein the peptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.